

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6538

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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SUBJ: MARCH 4 EC COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) - ROUND-UP

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1328, B) EC BRUSSELS 1323

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN MINISTERS)
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MET MARCH 4 IN WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN ON OF
ITS BRIEFEST SESSIONS ON RECORD. THE MINISTERS EXAMINED RAPIDLY,
BUT WITHOUT DECISION, ARTICLE 24:6 (SEE REFTEL B), REGIONAL
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POLICY, COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE

PARLIAMENT, AND MEDITERRANEAN POLICY (SEPTEL. THE COUNCIL DID DECIDE THAT IMPORTS OF TAPE RECORDERS INTO ITALY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE RATHER THAN QUOTAS. UNCERTAINTIES IN THE WAKE OF THE BRITISH ELECTION AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CAUSED THE MINISTERS, IN EFFECT, TO REFER MOST AGENDA ITEMS BACK TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY INSTITUTION FOR "FURTHER STUDY" AND TO DEFER ANY MAJOR DECISIONS UNTIL THE COUNCIL SESSION (FOREIGN MINISTERS) OF APRIL 1-2 IN LUXEMBOURG. END SUMMARY.

2. REGIONAL POLICY. THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED ITS LATES COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON REGIONAL POLICY TO THE MINISTERS, BUT "WITH DUE REGARD TO THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION", THE COUNCIL DEFERRED THE SUBJECT TO APRIL 1-2. APPARENTLY, NO DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE COMPROMISE, WHICH REPORTEDLY IS DIRECTED TOWARD TWO POINTS: 1) THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND WILL BE APPROXIMATELY THE FIGURE WHICH THE GERMANS HAVE INDICATED IS THEIR MAXIMUM (1.4 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT) AND 2) THE FUND'S EFFORTS WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN IRELAND, THE UK AND ITALY. IT IS LIKELY, ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, THAT REGIONAL POLICY WILL BE DEBATED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT ITS SESSION NEXT WEEK.

3. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ITS STUDY OF THE ADOPTION OF A CONSULTATION PROCEDURE FOR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUE ITS WORK AND SUBMIT A REPORT AT THE COUNCIL SESSION OF APRIL 1-2. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES.

4. ITALIAN TAPE RECORDERS. THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT IN RETURN FOR THE GIVING UP BY ITALY OF ITS QUOTA ON THE IMPORTS OF TAPE RECORDERS, THE ITALIAN MARKET WOULD BE PROTECTED BY A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH JAPAN WOULD LIMIT ITS EXPORTS TO ITALY TO 330,000 UNITS A YEAR. FOR OTHER IMPORTS INTO ITALY, THE MARKET WILL BE KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AND THE QUESTION WILL BE RE-EXAMINED IN THE EVENT OF ABNORMAL INCREASES.

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5. THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: MARCH 11-12, AGRICULTURE MINISTERS; MARCH 18-19, EDUCATION MINISTERS (TENTATIVE), MARCH 21, DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS (TENTATIVE); MARCH 25-26, AGRICULTURE MINISTERS, APRIL 1-2, FOREIGN MINISTERS; APRIL 22-23, AGRICULTURE MINISTERS; APRIL 29-30, FINANCE MINISTERS (TENTATIVE). ALL COUNCIL SESSIONS IN APRIL WILL BE IN LUXEMBOURG.

GREENWALD

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